



News Release from Congressman

ROB SIMMONS

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS HONORS SIMMONS FOR HIS 'STRONG COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT'



NORWICH - Congressman Rob Simmons, R-2nd District, was honored today by the National Association of Community Health Centers for his "on-going attention and dedication to community health centers." Simmons received his award at the Norwich United Community & Family Services.

Community health centers provide access to quality preventive and primary health care for the medically underserved. In Connecticut, the centers provide comprehensive, quality primary care as well as supportive services to thousands of low-income working families who are without health insurance. For example, the Norwich health center last year served 11,000 persons in 52,000 visits. Local community health centers are also located in New London and Colchester.

Chuck Seeman, director of United Community and Family Services hosted the event. Introducing Congressman Simmons, Seeman said, "Rob Simmons has demonstrated a strong commitment to health centers."

Since coming to Congress, Rob Simmons has been a strong supporter of our Community Health Centers. Simmons is a cosponsor of the "Health Centers Renewal Act of 2006" - legislation to reauthorize the federal health centers program. The lawmaker is also a cosponsor of legislation to protect the community health centers benefits under Medicaid. And Simmons has fought against cuts to Medicaid and health centers funding.

Accepting the award, Simmons spoke about how his learning curve developed with respect to health care issues.

"When I was a member of the General Assembly I served with individuals who were healthcare professionals," Simmons said, "colleagues like Melodie Peters, Mary McGratten and Lenny Winkler. I knew they would, regardless of party affiliation, tell me the truth. I listened and learned and voted with them because they knew Community Health Centers work. I've carried the fight for health care to Congress. I have told President Bush we need at least \$200 million more in support for health centers because they work. The House Appropriations Committee put \$206 million in for this budget cycle. It's not enough; it doesn't solve the problem, but we are going in the right direction and I'll keep working to get that funding raised because the hard work you all do every day makes a difference to people in your community."

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